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[LSS: in Luang Prabang] "We notice, on the sand-banks near the water, rows of poles, which women, with baskets passed through their arms, come to inspect, and apparently to wipe at frequent intervals. This excites our curiosity, and when we get closer, we find that these poles are done over with glue to catch the grasshoppers which alight upon them, and which are sold in the market as a staple article of food."

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GRASSHOPPER HUNTERS, LUANG PRABANG.

314 when mixed with curcuma. The trees are found in the forest, and
386 sometimes in gardens.

10. Yams.

The yam is an edible tubercle of the Dioscorea family. It is
262 represented by two varieties, the white and the black, which are called
241 "Mane-Phuek-Khao" and "Mane-Phuek-Dam" in Laotian. These tubercles are the main standby when there is a scarcity of rice and [335] maize, but in ordinary times they are used only to supplement the usual diet.

11. Taro or cush-cush (Mane-Pa).

Taro is also a food plant of the Aroïdées caladiées genus (Caladium esculentum). Like the yam, it is one of the most useful edible tubercles in times of famine.

12. Medicinal plants.

824 Designated by the generic name "Ya" in Laotian, these plants
278 are represented by special types of orchids, roots, bark, berries, leaves and even pieces of wood of different kinds, the whole forming an assortment of medicaments.

[438] The Khas are the ones who collect these various products from the depths of the forests, and they trade them either to Chinese or to Laotians for money or other goods.

[435] Certain of these plants and barks are used by the Laotians while others, such as the leaves from orchid plants, for example, are purchased by Chinese merchants at prices which vary between 33 and 62 francs per hundred kilograms.

13. Cloves.

The clove tree (Caryophyllus aromaticus. Kane-Phou in Laotian) is quite scarce in Laos. Cloves are mixed with various ingredients in masticatories or are taken as medicine.

Cultivation of the clove tree ought to be developed in Laos because of the high value of its flowers which, when dried on the tree, constitute the cloves of commerce.

14. Beeswax (Phung).

222 Beeswax is much sought-after in Laos, where a great deal of it is
[231] consumed. It is a scavenging product par excellence since, except in
314 the Sib-Song-Pahn-Na, the inhabitants do not practice apiculture and are content to go into the forest and look for honeycombs in order to extract the wax. The latter is used for domestic needs and for worship
[438] ceremonies. It also forms the basis of quite an important trade.